

Docket No.: 50323-017



#10

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Uri TASCH, et al.

Serial No.: 09/827,311

Filed: April 06, 2001

Group Art Unit: 3736

Examiner: B.S. Szmal

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETECTING LAMENESS IN ANIMALS

RULE 1.132 DECLARATION OF URI TASCH

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

I, Uri Tasch, declare and say as follows:

1. I received my Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge MA) in 1983. I am presently a Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Maryland Baltimore County and have been a Professor since 2001. Previously, I was an Associate Professor in the same Department from 1995 - 2001 and an Assistant Professor therein from 1989 - 1995. My research has focused, in recent years, on the development of technology that detects lameness of various four legged animals, but has not been exclusively limited thereto.

2. I am a named co-inventor on the above-identified application. I have read, and am familiar with the pending Office Action in the above-identified application, with the response filed herewith, and make this Declaration in support of the patentability thereof.

3. The cited reference to **Rajkondawar** is a publication by Parimal G. Rajkondawar, a graduate student whom I advised during his doctoral studies at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

4. Parimal G. Rajkondawar in no way contributed to the inventive steps leading to the invention of the subject matter that is now the subject of U.S. Application No. 09/827,311. Instead, Parimal G. Rajkondawar made valued contributions to the implementation and testing of the invention developed by myself, Alan M. Lefcourt, Mark A. Varner, and Benny Erez under my direction, supervision, and instruction.

5. Parimal G. Rajkondawar published the cited information on or about March 23, 2001, with my permission following the filing of the pending U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/201,823, filed on May 30, 2000 to highlight his educational background and experience and, preferably solicit and obtain suitable employment upon completion of his doctoral studies in May of 2003.

6. The information published by Parimal G. Rajkondawar and cited by the Examiner did not reflect the inventive work of Parimal G. Rajkondawar, but of myself, Alan M. Lefcourt, Mark A. Varner, and Benny Erez.

7. The information published by Parimal G. Rajkondawar and cited by the Examiner was, in fact, published on or about March 23, 2001, which is after the May 30, 2000, filing date of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/207,823.

8. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further, that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of

the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent issuing thereon.

Dated: Feb 25, 03

Uri Tasch

Uri Tasch
Professor, Dept. of Mechanical
Engineering, University of Maryland
Baltimore County